

Message Text

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51

ACTION DEAE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SNM-02 RSC-01 DRC-01 /016 W

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R 100904Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2280

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 5824

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: THAI-US COOPERATION IN ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATION

REF: BANGKOK 3950

1. WE WERE PLEASED MARCH 6 BY THE SEIZURE OF AN OPERATING HEROIN LABORATORY IN BANGKOK AND THE ARREST OF SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH IT (REFTEL). THE LABORATORY ITSELF WAS IMPORTANT BUT ALL OF US WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY THE PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEPLOYED BY THE RTG ANTI-NARCOTICS ORGANIZATION FROM START TO FINISH OF THE OPERATION. THIS BODES WELL FOR THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF RTG CAPABILITY IN THIS FIELD.

2. I WROTE A NOTE ON MARCH 13 CONGRATULATING THE PRIME MINISTER AND DESCRIBING THE OPERATION AS A "TRIBUTE TO YOUR OWN LEADERSHIP".

3. THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED BY A NOTE OF APRIL 4 WHICH READS IN PART AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE I WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THROUGH JOINT EFFORTS, EXEMPLIFIED BY THE ABOVE-MENTIONED CASE, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO MAKE EVEN GREATER PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR COMMON GOAL. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: THE LONG-RUN SUCCESS OF THE RTG IN ALL
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ASPECTS OF ITS ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM, INCLUDING

ENFORCEMENT AND CROP SUBSTITUTION, DEPENDS IN LARGE
DEGREE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THAI PRIDE IN WHAT THEY
ARE DOING. ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES OF THIS MISSION
IS TO ENCOURAGE THIS PRIDE. THE BACK-UP BEING
PROVIDED US AT THE WASHINGTON END IN THIS OVER-ALL
EFFORT IS DEEPLY APPRECIATED.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 APR 1974
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